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THE SITUATION IN MEXICO

BY DOLORES BUTTERFIELD

IN contemplating the present situation in Mexico there is a tendency of late to deplore the Madero revolution and the overthrow of Diaz, and to overlook the fact that the Diaz régime itself not only made and forced, by its political abuses, the revolution that overthrew it, but, by its economic abuses, prepared the country for the anarchy now rife in it; and also that it is the very same ring of men who surrounded Diaz and finally rendered his rule unbearable who are now financing and fomenting the present rebellion against a government not in sympathy with them nor subservient to their interests.

Porfirio Diaz attained the presidency of Mexico thirty-five years ago by overthrowing Lerdo de Tejada. His revolutionary plan of Tuxtepec contained an absolute *no re-election* clause, since it was against the re-election of Lerdo and alleged frauds committed to secure it that he was warring. At the end of his first term he retired, turning the government over to his close friend and comrade, Manuel Gonzalez, who proceeded very disinterestedly to amend the constitution in the matter of a president succeeding himself. Gonzalez, having neatly accomplished this task, withdrew at the end of his term and Diaz was elected president for a second term; and that office he held without interruption from 1885 until May, 1911.

In all but the last of the elections held during this period Diaz was the one and only candidate for president. Citizens had the ample privilege of voting for him or not voting. Only the politicians ever troubled to go to the polls, and they were always unanimous. As it became a needless nuisance to hold an election every four years the presidential term was extended to six.

Though he never fulfilled the plan of Tuxtepec to which

he was pledged, Diaz nevertheless, at the outset of his career, accomplished some wonderful things for his country. He put an end to brigandage, which was at that time wide-spread. Such bandits as he could not buy he exterminated. His political opponents he also bought or exterminated, so that without the slightest disturbance to the national peace he could be unanimously re-elected whenever his term expired. Out of bankruptcy he established credit; he put up schools; he invited foreign capital into his country and made it possible for foreign capital to go in; and so he gradually built up a material progress which won him the name of "nation-builder." There were railroads and telegraphs; the cities were graced with beautiful edifices, with theaters and parks, with electricity and asphalt. There was the appearance of a civilization and progress, which, considering the time in which it was compassed, was indeed marvelous.

But all this was only a shell and a semblance. The economic condition of the Mexican lower classes was not touched—the process of "nation-building" seemed not to include them. In the shadow of a modern civilization stalked poverty and ignorance worthy of the Middle Ages. And it was notorious that in the capital city itself, under the very eyes of the central government, was where the very worst conditions and the most glaring extremes of poverty and wealth were to be seen. On the one hand, splendid *paseos* lined with magnificent palaces, where, in their automobiles, the pleasure-seeking women of the rich displayed their raiment worth thousands of dollars; and, on the other, streets filled with beggars, their clothes literally dropping off them in filthy rags, reeking with the typhus which for years has been endemic in the City of Mexico.

Let it be said to Diaz's credit that he did try, in a measure, at first to better those conditions. Hence the public schools which, though inadequate for the scattered rural population, have accomplished much in the cities. He also attempted years ago a division of the lands, but dropped it when he saw that the great landowners were stronger than he and that to persist might cost him the presidency.

It was natural and inevitable that a government in which there was never any change or movement should stagnate and become corrupt. Porfirio Diaz was not a president, but, in all save the name, an absolute monarch, and in-

evitably there formed about his throne a cordon of men as unpatriotic and self-interested as he may have been patriotic and disinterested — as to a great extent he undeniably was. These men were the Científicos.

The term is, of course, not their own. It was applied to them by the Anti-re-electionists, meaning that they were scientific grafters and exploiters. The full-fledged Científico was at once a tremendous land-holder and high government official. To illustrate, the land of the state of Chihuahua is almost entirely owned by the Terrazas family. In the days of Diaz Don Luis Terrazas was always the governor, being further reinforced by his relative, Enrique C. Creel, high in the Diaz ministry. In Sonora the land was held by Ramon Corral, Luis Torres, and Rafael Izabal. These three gentlemen, who were called "The Trinity," used to rotate in the government of the state until Corral was made vice-president, when Torres and Izabal took turn about until the death of the latter shortly before the Madero revolution. In every state there was either one perpetual governor or a combine of them.

Thus in each state a small group of men were the absolute masters politically, economically, and industrially. They made and unmade the laws at their pleasure. For instance, Terrazas imposed a prohibitory tax upon cattle which forced the small owners to dispose of their stock, which he, being the only purchaser, bought at his own price, after which he repealed the law. They adjusted taxation to suit themselves, assessing their own huge estates at figures nothing short of ridiculous, while levying heavily upon the small farmer, and especially upon enterprise and improvements. They practised peonage, though peonage is contrary to the Constitution of the Republic, to the Federal laws, and, in many cases, to the laws of the separate states as well. They drew public salaries for perverting the government to their private benefit and enrichment; and as the dictator grew older and surrendered to his satellites more and more of his once absolute power the conditions became so intolerable, and the tyranny and greed of the Científicos so shameless and unbridled (infinitely more so in the southern than in the northern states), that it would have been a reversal of the history of the world if there had been no revolution.

There was already wide-spread discontent in the country when Diaz committed the mistake of the Creelman interview.

In this interview he stated that the Mexican people were now, under his guidance, educated to a point where they were capable of self-government, and that in the approaching elections of 1910 he intended to retire and leave the field clear for the nation by means of political parties (which he regretted to say did not at present exist in his country) to elect whatever citizen it might see fit to the executive power. The purpose of the interview was really to stimulate the invasion of foreign capital, which was rather chary about undertaking large investments in a country whose economic well-being was supposed to hang by the physical life of one man. However, Mexico largely believed that he really meant it. If he had kept that promise, if before the people were enraged past all endurance and armed for revolution, before availing themselves of the shelter of a just cause, bandits and ambitious political leaders had risen up in arms all over the country, Diaz had retired and let the nation hold an honest and peaceful election the history of the past two years in Mexico might be written very differently.

Perhaps he even intended to keep that promise when he made it; but if so the Científicos, who knew that his prestige and the love of the nation for him was their only shield, induced him to think better of it. When, encouraged by his own invitation, the political parties whose non-existence he had been deploring came forward with an enthusiasm that ought to have surprised him, he manifested none of the delight with which he had said he would welcome their advent. The strongest of these political parties was the Anti-re-electionist party. It embodied the best elements and the best ideals of the country and from the first was the one of which the Diaz régime was most afraid.

Now by its very name this party was pledged to no re-election, and yet it so far compromised with the régime as to nominate Diaz for president, only repudiating Corral, who was odious to the entire nation. However, the Científicos saw that this was to be the entering wedge, and they promptly prepared to crush the new political faction.

General Reyes, who saw how the wind was blowing, refused the Anti-re-electionist vice-presidential nomination, and in a public letter urged all his would-be supporters, as they esteemed him, to vote for Corral. Nevertheless, he was subjected to numberless persecutions, until at last Diaz

offered him a military commission which he accepted and which, taking him to France, relieved the Científico clique of his presence. Reyes was at that time a man of such prestige and popularity that his repudiation of the Anti-re-electionists and his subsequent departure were expected to demoralize the new party. However, it merely turned to seek a new candidate.

But this was not easy. Possible nominees were arrested for "libel" or for anything else, plausible or otherwise. Many had to flee the country. It came to be that men were afraid of the nomination and avoided it. Anti-re-electionists were arrested right and left; their newspapers were suppressed, the presses wrecked, and the editors thrown into prison. But the party's blood was up. It did not dissolve. It did not nominate Corral. Instead it struck Porfirio Diaz's name from its ticket and tendered to Francisco I. Madero, Jr., not the vice-presidential but the presidential nomination. The bare fact that he accepted it speaks volumes for his courage.

Francisco Madero was born October 4, 1873. He was educated from childhood in the United States and Europe; and upon returning to his country, imbued with the advanced ideas of the most broad-minded men of the most enlightened countries in the world, it was perhaps only natural that he should resent the conditions which he saw in his own country. The Madero family owns great tracts of land in Coahuila, besides properties in other states. Madero introduced modern methods and modern machinery in the management of his estates. Already a millionaire, he made more millions, at the same time doing much toward the betterment of conditions for his own immediate dependents among the lower class. Most men would have been content with that. The multi-millionaire philanthropist treads a safe and honored path. Evidently Francisco Madero was not content. He wanted to apply some fundamental, lasting remedy to alter the conditions which hopelessly doomed the lower classes of Mexico to peonage and virtual slavery. Standing guard over the economic situation was the political situation which turned the nation over bodily to its looters and exploiters. Plainly the political situation must be attacked first.

Madero first attracted attention by writing *The Presidential Succession in 1910*. The Científico clique laughed

at him as a visionary. They had been afraid of Reyes the soldier, but Madero they ridiculed as a bookworm, a teetotaler, a vegetarian, and an impractical idealist generally. Suddenly they awoke to the fact that his book, with its calm, dispassionate logic and democratic tone, was doing them more harm than a thousand soldiers, and they suppressed its publication. It was the writing of this book that led to Madero's nomination for president by the Anti-re-electionist party when every one else had failed it.

Madero took the attitude that he was a presidential candidate in a free republic and began what he called his democratic campaign. He went from city to city, delivering speeches and laying his platform before the people. He was called "the apostle of democracy," and the multitudes followed him like an apostle indeed. But he did not carry out his democratic campaign without sacrifice and risk. When he passed through Hermosillo, Sonora, the hotel-keepers closed their doors to him. Torres, feudal lord of the state, had given out the necessary hint and Madero, for all his millions, could find no apartments for himself and his wife until a Spaniard—relying upon the fact of being a foreigner—offered them lodgings, "not wishing to lend himself to so ignoble an intrigue," as Madero said in his report to the Centro Antireeleccionista. This was but one city of many. In all places he had the most tremendous difficulty in renting halls for his addresses, unless some member of his own party happened to own some such hall. Frequently he was reduced to speaking in tumble-down sheds or mule-yards or vacant lots, the local authorities often going to the length of hiring rowdies to create disturbances at his meetings. He was ridiculed, he was threatened, he was persecuted, but he went on unafraid.

Just before and during the elections every known Maderista, from Madero down, was arrested on charges of "sedition." Things came to such a pass that in the city where I lived some sixty prominent Maderistas were arrested at two o'clock one morning without warrants and on no charge, it being noteworthy that the men arrested were almost without exception some of the best and most honorable men in the state. And this happened at the same hour of the same day in every city in Mexico. But in spite of the fact that many votes were lost to Madero through intimidation or actual imprisonment, so strong a vote was

registered for the Madero electors that fraud was resorted to to cover his gains. The result of the elections was that Diaz and Corral were *unanimously* re-elected—the former for his eighth term and the latter for his second.

The Anti-re-electionists then appealed to Congress and the Senate to annul the elections, alleging fraud and intimidation. Without the slightest pretense of considering or investigating these charges Congress and Senate—long the mouthpieces of Cientificismo—ratified the elections as just and legal.

Every peaceful measure to bring about justice in the elections and insure the free expression of the nation's will was now exhausted. The only recourse left to the people by the Cientifico régime was war. Their leader at the polls became their leader in the preparations for that war, but any one who has read *The Presidential Succession in 1910* knows that the revolution was neither of Madero's making nor seeking. In that book he voices his fear of the consequences to Mexico if an armed rebellion should ever become necessary and points out its immediate and future perils. He gave the dictator and the Cientificos every opportunity to keep the law and avoid the conflict. If they had yielded an inch, if they had shown even the most infinitesimal respect for the republican institutions of the country, they might have saved themselves from the revolution. But each day they went further in abuse and persecution; each day they proved more and more conclusively even to those who had until now believed in them (let me say that I was one) the unbridled looters and despots that they were; and each day they made more and more inevitable, necessary, and just the revolution which dethroned them.

In the midst of this riot of tyranny, while the nation yet seethed with indignation at the outrageous electoral farce imposed upon it, the first Centennial of Mexican independence was being celebrated before the foreign diplomats with unprecedented pomp and display. The Anti-re-electionists declared that Liberty was dead and that instead of celebrating they were going to don deep mourning. In the cities where they did participate in the celebrations (never in a spirit of rejoicing, but only in deep gratitude and reverence toward their heroes) they obtained permits and held acts of commemoration of their own as distinct from the "official" programmes. They were thus a mark

for all manner of persecutions from petty annoyances to the most unprovoked armed attacks. Some students were fired upon by troops while they were carrying wreaths to the monument of the boy heroes of Chapultepec; a young lawyer was arrested for making a speech beneath the statue of Juarez; and in Tlaxcala a procession of unarmed working-men was fired upon and ridden down by *rurales*, several men and a woman being killed. Consecrating hypocritical hymns to a liberty that did not exist and heaping with wreaths the tombs and monuments of the heroes of Mexico, while violating all the ideals for which those heroes died, drunk with the power they had wielded so long, the Científicos pressed blindly on, following the path that Privilege has taken since the beginning of history and which has only one end.

People say now that Mexico has vindicated Diaz. To those of us who saw it nothing can vindicate the last year of his rule. Mexico, in proving herself the just and natural and perhaps irredeemable product of conquest, militarism, and Cientificismo, cannot excuse or justify the military dictatorship which, necessary and beneficial at first, corrupted itself in the height of its power to the selfish interests of a few individuals, and thus in its decline steadily undid whatever it had wrought before of national good—even to making shameful and abhorrent and inevitably undermining the vaunted peace which was its principal boast.

These are some of the causes and circumstances that made the revolution of 1910-11—not all of them, for there must be remembered in addition the Yaqui slave traffic, the contract labor system of the great southern haciendas, and a dozen other iniquities, greater and lesser, which also contributed to precipitating the revolt. It was fortunate that that revolt was captained by a man of Francisco Madero's type—a man who knew how to win the world's sympathy for his cause and how to make his subordinates merit that sympathy by their observance of the rules of civilized warfare which he gave them in the plan of San Luis Potosi. That document would seem to be elastic, judging by the number of promises since claimed to have been made in it; but it *did* contain strict orders against any manner of atrocities, with warning that officers would be held responsible for any acts of barbarism committed by their men unless they could most fully establish their innocence. True, even in

the Madero revolution some atrocities were committed, the worst being the Chinese massacre in Torreon; for in the shadow of a great man and a just cause many rise up who are not really guided by the principles of either. But the Chinese massacre was without any parallel, and other acts of cruelty or even of looting were very few. The past revolution had what the present one lacks—honorable officers, for the most part, who exerted themselves, each in his own sphere of personal influence, to prevent deeds of violence by the ignorant which would discredit a cause they loved.

The actual armed contention of the Madero revolution was singularly brief, culminating in the capture of Ciudad Juarez, which was followed by the resignation of Diaz and Corral. There can be no doubt that the dictatorship could have held together for a considerable time longer and that Diaz surrendered before he actually had to. But he could probably see by this time that it was inevitable in any case, and he was willing to sacrifice his personal pride and ambition sooner than necessary to avoid bloodshed in Mexico if he could. And also he had it upon his conscience, and it was brought home to him by the mobs outside his palace, that he was not the constitutional president of Mexico, but the tool of the betrayers of her Constitution. That he had been shamelessly deceived and played upon by the impassable cordon of Cientificos about him is easy to judge. His message of resignation was one to touch any heart, combining pathos with absolute dignity. But his own words, uttered thirty-six years before and meant for another man, justified his overthrow. "Let no citizen impose or perpetuate himself in the executive power and this will be the last revolution."

The resignation of Diaz and Corral was taken by many to signify the complete surrender of the old régime and the triumph of the revolution. Indeed, for the moment it so appeared. But although the Cientificos were ousted from direct political control, their wealth and power and the tremendous machinery of their domination was still to be contended with before the revolution could follow up its political success with the economic reforms which were its real object.

Madero had pledged himself primarily to the division of the lands. He realized that only by the abolition of the

landed aristocracy, and an equitable distribution among moderate holders for active development of the huge estates, held idle in great part or worked by peons, could the progress and prosperity of the nation be put upon a solid basis. He knew exactly what the remedy was and, though a landed aristocrat himself by birth and inheritance, was not afraid of it. As soon as he was elected to the presidency he set a committee of competent, accredited engineers to work appraising property values in the different states, and great tracts of hundreds of thousands and millions of acres, previously assessed at half as many thousands as they were worth millions, were revalued and reassessed at their true inherent value. The *haciendados* raised a frightful cry. They tried threats, intrigue, and bribery. It was useless; the revaluation went on. The new administration reclaimed as national property all that it could of the *terrenos baldíos*, or public lands, which under Diaz had been rapidly merging into the great estates. It established a government bank for the purpose of making loans on easy terms and thus assisting the poor to take up and work these public lands in small parcels. Even before becoming president Madero had advised the working-men to organize and demand a living wage, which they did. He attacked the lotteries, the bull-fights, the terrible pulque trust, the unbridled traffic of which, more than any other one factor, has contributed to the degradation of the lower classes. He began to extend the public-school system, and it was hinted that in those schools the teaching of the Constitution of '57 would be made compulsory.

From the first the Científicos hampered and impeded him, and he had to contend with the obstructionist policy adopted by a Congress left over from the days of Diaz—a Congress which had been elected to serve a certain term and which Madero, in his desire to conform to the law and to his own democratic theories and take no arbitrary measures, retained in office pending the expiration of that term. So little were the various state elections biased by the party in power that whenever by actual vote the Científicos could worst the Madero candidates and get their own men into the state legislatures and other political bodies they had the full liberty of the law to do so—and by masquerading as “ Democrats ” they frequently managed it. But liberty of election was not enough for them. They bought state

executives wherever they could, who did their best to reverse the Madero policies and deliver their states into the hands of the same grafters who had ruled them before—as happened in Sinaloa, for instance. But even this did not satisfy the Científicos. Were they, who had controlled the central government and every state, to be reduced to only a state here and there? Was Terrazas, heretofore the autocrat of Chihuahua, to be bearded in his own stronghold by the uncompromising, unpurchasable Gonzalez? Was Torres to surrender Sonora to the capable and honorable Maytorena? Were the mighty lords of the separate entities, north and south, to let their huge estates be revalued and taxed at their just value, their peons enabled to acquire land of their own, the privileges in which they had so long run riot to be curtailed? What wonder that Madero had barely assumed the presidency when the “counter-revolution,” long muttering and threatening, broke out in earnest?

To foment this counter-revolution they took advantage of the fact that in various parts of the country there were disorderly bands of armed men committing numerous depredations. These men had risen up in the shadow of the Maderista revolution, and at its close, instead of laying down their arms, they devoted themselves to the looting of ranches and ungarrisoned isolated towns. Of these brigands—for they were neither more nor less, whatever they may have called themselves then or may call themselves now—the most formidable was Emiliano Zapata. His alleged reason for continuing in arms after the surrender of the dictatorship was that his men had not been paid for their services. President De la Barra paid them, but their brigandage continued. Loath to see the army turned upon a man who had seemed to lend good service to the revolutionary cause, Madero—at that time a private citizen—paid him an unofficial visit in an effort to pacify him by friendly means. He promised the outlaw absolute pardon for his political offenses, but added that for the civil crimes charged against him and his men, committed against non-combatants (murder, arson, and rapine), he must answer before the courts of the nation if civil suit should be brought against him, since Madero could not and would not take it upon himself to pardon these crimes in case the charges were true. Zapata, declaring himself a maligned patriot, gave his solemn promise to lay down his arms and prove, if need

be, before the civil courts his innocence of the heinous offenses attributed to him. This promise he subsequently made not the slightest move to keep.

Naturally, a revolution composed of unorganized bands of looters, whose only approach to a leader was such a man as Emiliano Zapata, could not gain any great headway, far less win the support and sympathy of public opinion. Their depredations were confined to the mountainous regions of the South, where the geography of the country protected them; and as for a political or military programme, they had no shadow of one.

A tenacious Federal campaign had reduced these marauders to the last straits when the decoy revolution of Reyes, calling many of the available troops to the North, gave them a new lease of life. And then suddenly, just when the Zapatistas were again on the point of being crushed, there was a mutiny of the garrison of Ciudad Juarez in Chihuahua, and though it was quelled the disorder spread throughout the state. And at the most critical moment Pascual Orozco, Jr., Madero's trusted lieutenant, in command of the military forces of Chihuahua, issued—on the heels of reiterated promises of fealty to the government—a *pronunciamiento* in favor of the revolution and delivered the state which had been entrusted to his keeping to the revolutionists at whose head he now placed himself.

The new malcontents alleged as their justification the non-fulfillment of the plan of San Luis Potosi. They declared that Madero had betrayed the revolution, and that they were going to overthrow him and themselves carry out the promises he had made. This sounds heroic, noble, and patriotic, but will not bear close inspection. In the first place, many of the revolutionists with whom the new faction allied itself had been in arms since before Madero was even elected—a trivial circumstance, however, which did not seem to shake their logic. Moreover, as any honest, fair-minded person must have recognized, the promises of the plan of San Luis Potosi were not such as Madero could fulfil with a wave of his hand or a stroke of his pen. They were big promises and they required time and careful study for their successful undertaking and the co-operation of the people at large against the public enemies, whereas Madero was not given time nor favorable circumstances nor the intelligent co-operation of any but a small proportion of

the population. In spite of the Científico political intrigues, on the one hand, and the armed disorders of the Zapatistas on the other, he had carried out many of his pledges and had taken steps toward the carrying out of others. That he did not comply with them all is directly attributable to the revolution itself, since he had given every evidence of good faith; and his work was distinctly interrupted by the rebellion assuming larger proportions. But this again does not stagger the logic of those who are fighting him.

As a matter of fact, Madero himself, far from overstating the benefits of the revolution led by him or making unwise promises of a Utopia impossible of realization, addressed these words to the Mexican people at the close of that conflict: "You have won your political freedom, but do not therefore suppose that your *economic* and social liberty can be won so suddenly. This can only be attained by an earnest and sustained effort on the part of all classes of society."

Orozco's accusations of Madero, however, have not been able to disguise the fact that the motive power behind his fiery patriotism is dollars and cents. A contribution was voluntarily raised by the bankers and landowners of Chihuahua—in other words, Creel and Terrazas—and given to Orozco for his treason. Part of the money that bought him was paid to him in one of the principal clubs of the city of Chihuahua by Alberto Terrazas, a near relative of Don Luis; and he was promised more money and great tracts of land (with twelve million acres one may be generous) when he should have accomplished the overthrow of Madero.

The revolution organized under a formal head gained impetus and, sweeping the state of Chihuahua, spread to other states. But always its ranks were recruited from the lowest, most disorderly elements—men who could be enticed by prospects of loot and by the Científico money so generously pouring into the country from Europe and the United States (where the principal Científicos have insured themselves) to foment the revolt in different parts of the country. One thing stands out beyond any manner of question: that the conduct of the present revolutionists has fallen very far short of that observed by the Maderistas last year. Madero looted no banks, shot no prisoners. On the contrary, he risked his own life to save that of General Navarro, captured at Ciudad Juarez; and non-combatants and foreigners were carefully respected. Orozco, in his

zealous defense of the plan of San Luis Potosí, seems to have forgotten its clauses respecting the shooting of prisoners of war and the responsibility of officers for the conduct of their men.

The treason of Orozco added to the military strength of the rebellion, but did not raise that rebellion in the general estimation. On the contrary, so great was its discredit that Orozco's own overwhelming popularity and prestige fell away from him completely the moment he identified himself with it. He may try to pass for a patriot, a "liberal," and the defender of a just cause if he pleases. But his actions speak for themselves. As an individual, as an officer, and as a public man his conduct has been in the extreme perfidious and dishonorable. Public opinion has so recognized it and has condemned it accordingly.

Thus there are arrayed against the administration the same Científico clique which Madero fought when they were in the government and he outside of it; an army financed by them and commanded by a bought tool of theirs; their salaried press which has steadily and systematically misrepresented the motives and actions of the administration; the American non-resident owners of enormous Mexican tracts who have filled the press of this country with falsehoods, exaggerations, and needless clamor about intervention; and the great interests of this country generally who realize that a radical government in Mexico, putting in operation the same economic theories under which our northern neighbor is making such great strides, would not only be a menace to the Wall Street control of Latin America, but might bring that menace nearer home. And in addition to these many and potent forces the administration has to contend with the Mexican lower class—a class illiterate and poor in the utmost extreme and upon whose hunger and whose poverty the pulque trust has preyed; a class in great part degraded and vicious and at the best easily deceived and led astray. This class does not understand Madero; it cannot grasp his political and economic reforms. It clamors about the land without realizing that the revaluation and taxation of the great estates would solve the agrarian problem far more justly, permanently, and effectually than the forcible seizure which appeals to it as the only practicable solution. The bare fact of Madero's election failed to bring about the millennium which the

ignorance of this class had been led to picture. Therefore, it lends ready ears to the insidious charge that Madero has betrayed the people—they have been so often betrayed! Did he not promise that the rich should be poor and the poor should be rich, that all that there was should be shared by all alike? Promises, to be sure, for which, as for many another, you may search in vain through the plan of San Luis Potosi. But it is easy to deceive the illiterate and, in their pitiful blindness, to mislead them against their own interests to serve the ends of their perpetual foes.

But although a certain proportion of Orozco's followers may be composed of brave men genuinely mistaken, whose ignorance has been played upon by ambitious leaders in the pay of the Cientificos, by far the greater part of the forces of the rebellion are made up of the vicious elements of the country—an element fostered and perpetuated by the slave system of the southern plantations combined with the liquor traffic. These men merely make a cloak of the agrarian problem, of the imaginary promises made and broken by the president, or of whatever else occurs to them. They are not really fighting for any principle nor for any justice either to themselves or to others. Thirty-five years of peace have left them without reverence for peace or illusions concerning its benefits to their class. They know that in the past the law has forged chains for them while giving to others the whip of absolute mastership. This being the case and they being unable to comprehend how or why peace and law could ever mean anything else, and war offering loot, license, and good pay, they are for war heart and soul.

It is to be feared that for long years to come Mexico must stand judged in the eyes of the world by the disgraceful and uncivilized conduct of the various rebels, or so-called rebels, and simon-pure bandits who are contributing to the revolt and running riot over the country; but there is, nevertheless, in Mexico a class of people as educated, as refined, as honorable as those existing anywhere. And these people—the *obreros* (skilled working-men) and the professional middle class, as well as the better elements of the laboring classes, are supporting Madero—not all in the spirit of his personal adherents, but because they realize the tremendous peril to Mexico of continued revolution. Last year the revolution was necessary—the peril had to be incurred, be-

cause nothing but arms could move the existing despotism; but none of the pretended principles of the revolution can now justify that peril when the man attacked is the legal, constitutional, duly elected president, overwhelmingly chosen by the people, and venomously turned upon immediately following his election without being given even an approach to a fair chance to prove himself. All the better elements of the country realize that Madero no longer represents an individual or even a political administration. He represents the civilization of Mexico struggling against the unreined savagery of a population which has known no law but abject fear, and having lost that fear and the restraint which it imposed upon it, threatens to deliver Mexico to such a reign of anarchy, rapine, and terror as would be without a parallel in modern history. He represents the dignity and integrity of Mexico before the world.

Whether he can win or not is a question which will probably be decided now in a short time. If he fails it is the last of Mexico; for after him the different chiefs of the revolution, now allied or partially so, will be at one another's throats, with no end in sight except the loss of Mexico's autonomy; or, perhaps, the rise of another and far worse dictator who would institute another and more unbridled reign of Cientificismo which would end in a few years in another and worse revolution. If Madero does win he will have before him a task before which the stoutest heart might well give way, the task of holding the savagery of the slave population in check while striving to remedy the conditions which have bred it; and in order to remedy those conditions, fighting back inch by inch in every field, those "scientific" exploiters who would rather see their country hurled to any disaster than have their private privileges assailed. But whatever the outcome, whether it triumphs or fails, the new administration, assailed on every side by an enemy as treacherous and unscrupulous as it is powerful and making a last stand—perhaps a vain one—for Mexico's economic liberty and political independence, merits the support and comprehension of all the progressive elements of the world.

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